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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/626,140

07/24/2003

Takahiro Fukagawa

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PEARNE & GORDON LLP

1801 EAST 9TH STREET

SUITE 1200

CLEVELAND, OH 44114-3108

EXAMINER

LIEW, ALEX KOK SOON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2624

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/24/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/626,140	FUKAGAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alex Liew	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

An RCE was filed on the current case on June 27, 2007.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

The applicant states: "Tsujikawa does not disclose a printing inspection data generating apparatus having a grouping means for classifying and grouping the element shape and position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped."

The examiner agrees with the applicant. However, in the examiner's new search Inoue (US pat no 6,729,532) discloses grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped (see figure 1 - 33). The shape of each group depends on the number of holes, which are fitted with electrodes of proper sizes, column 2 lines 39 – 45. One skilled in the art would also include finding the shape of the electrode group because to further reduce alignment error when the electronic component is ready to be placed on the groups of holes.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue ('532).

With regards to claim 9, Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus for generating inspection data used in a printing inspection apparatus for inspecting a printing state of cream solder on a substrate after screen printing and containing position data indicating positions of solder print portions formed by printing the cream solder on a printing surface, said printing inspection data generating apparatus comprising

- data providing means for providing element position data indicating positions of the element solder print portions formed on respective electrodes provided on a circuit forming surface of said substrate to be used to bond electronic components (see column 2 lines 32 – 37 – the computer must know the positions of the holes in order to put the electrodes at the right positions) and
- grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups, which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped (see figure 2).

The shape of each group depends on the number of holes, which are fitted with electrodes of proper sizes, column 2 lines 39 – 45. One skilled in the art would also

include finding the shape of the electrode group because to further reduce alignment error when the electronic component is ready to be placed on the groups of holes.

With regards to claim 10, Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined on a geometrical range on the printing surface (see geometrical range is the dimension of group holes).

With regards to claim 11, Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined based on an attribute of said electronic components (see figure 1 – the electronic component that is going to be placed on each group of holes are those electronic which has the same number of electrodes as the holes and similar dimensions with the grouped holes).

With regards to claim 12, Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined so as to make one group for each of said electronic components (see figure 1 – 33).

With regards to claim 13, Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising specific inspection data giving means for giving specific inspection data to the individual data groups (the instructions needed

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to place and properly assign the electronic component with the holes in figure 1, which requires positional data).

With regards to claim 14 / (9 – 13), Inoue discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claims 9 – 13, wherein said data providing means provides element position data obtained based on mask opening data detected from a mask plate to be used for the screen printing (see figure 2B – solder paste are placed into the holes, the holes are the mask operation).

With regards to claim 15, see the rationale and rejection for claim 9.

With regards to claim 16, see the rationale and rejection for claim 10.

With regards to claim 17, see the rationale and rejection for claim 11.

With regards to claim 18, see the rationale and rejection for claim 12.

With regards to claim 19, see the rationale and rejection for claim 13.

With regards to claim 20 / (15 – 19), see the rationale and rejection for claim 14 / 9.

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3. Claims 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsujikawa (US pat no 5,991,435) in view of Inoue ('532) and official notice (MPEP 2144.03).

With regards to claim 1, Tsujikawa discloses Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus for inspecting a printing state of cream solder on a substrate after screen printing, said apparatus comprising image pick-up means for picking up an image of said substrate (see fig 14 – 53) and printing judging means for making a go/no-go judgment of the printing state based on an image pick-up result of said substrate from said image pick-up means and inspection data needed to perform a printing inspection (see col. 6 lines 29 – 36 – if the cream solder covers over a certain amount of area then it is classified as failure otherwise it non-defective), but does not disclose grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped. Also one skilled in the art would include a step of grouping plurality of grouped holes because to ensure proper alignment and placement of each electronic component onto the electronic board.

Inoue (US pat no 6,729,532) discloses grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped (see figure 1 - 33).

The shape of each group depends on the number of holes, which are fitted with electrodes of proper sizes, column 2 lines 39 – 45. One skilled in the art would also include finding the shape of the electrode group because to further reduce alignment error when the electronic component is ready to be placed on the groups of holes.

Tsujikawa does not disclose displaying means display the judgment result in connection with the data groups. It is well known in the art to display results on the monitor screen whether the electronic board is a defective or not defective. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include displaying results means because to make it known to the operator who is inspecting the electronic component so the operator can redo the inspection operation until the electronic board is error free improving the quality of manufacturing production.

With regards to claim 2, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the grouping condition is determined based on a geometrical range on a printing surface of said substrate (see fig 8 and 9 – the electronic board is rectangular and the geometrical range of the cream solders P1 – 3 are within the rectangular electrical board) and said printing judging means makes a judgment of the printing state using a data group grouped as an inspection performance range (see col. 6 lines 29 – 36 – judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

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With regards to claim 3, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grouping condition is determined based on an attribute of said electronic components (see fig 8 and 9 – the electronic board is rectangular which has solder creams on three corners which is grouped within the rectangular board – attribute is the shape of the electronic board) and said printing judging means makes a judgment of the printing state using a data group grouped as an electronic component having an attribute specified as a subject to be inspected (see col. 6 lines 29 – 36 – judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

With regards to claim 4, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grouping condition is determined so as to make a one-to-one correspondence between said electronic components and the data groups (see fig 9 – data groups are P1 – 3 corresponds with electronic board 9) and said display means displays the judgment result for each data group (see col. 6 lines 29 – 36 – judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

With regards to claim 5, see the rationale and rejection for claim 1.

With regards to claim 6, see the rationale and rejection for claim 2.

With regards to claim 7, see the rationale and rejection for claim 3.

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With regards to claim 8, see the rationale and rejection for claim 4.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex Liew whose telephone number is (571)272-8623.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alex Liew
AU2624
7/19/07



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600